

SPECIAL JAMAICA

Emancipation and Independence Issue 2000 News



Independence Reflections

Seventy-seven year-old Dorrel Earle of Content, St. James, has fond memories of Jamaica's historic Independence celebration on August 6, 1962.

Mr. Earle, a retired Public Works Department worker, spoke of the joy and pride of seeing the Jamaican flag hoisted for the first time and the "Union Jack" of Britain lowered.

"That day was indeed a great moment for me, to know that as a nation, we could display our own flag which represented our ability to manage our own affairs," Mr. Earle said.

He reminisced on the day's events in the Montego Bay town square where thousands from across western Jamaica had come out to celebrate.

"There were colourful balloons and explosions from 'squibs' and 'fire crackers' everywhere. The celebrations continued for days and people pondered the awesome responsibility which had been taken on by little Jamaica," he said.

For him, Independence was a move in the right direction, which has paid off for the country.

Opportunities

"Independence opened up opportunities for our athletes, and sports women and men, as they got the opportunity to compete and do well in other countries. By competing abroad, they steadily built Jamaica's international image," Mr. Earle said.

38 Years



Fi Wi Island A Boom



Stanley Beckford won the National Popular Song Contest, again with his entry "Fi Wi Island A Boom." He won the Toots Hibbert Trophy and cash prizes amounting to J\$100,000.

In an interview with Television Jamaica, the four-time song contest winner said, "I am happy and proud, although I was fretting because the other finalists were good."

Taniesha Khadine McGhie, a 24 year-old student at the University of the West Indies, is the National Festival Queen 2000.

Miss McGhie, who represented Kingston and St. Andrew, intends to make children her special project during her reign.

Contestants for the competition were judged on intelligence, awareness and talent, under the theme "Saluting the Jamaican Woman".

Both the National Popular Song and the Festival Queen competitions were organized by the Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC).



RECIPE CORNER STAMP AND GO

The unusual name for this dish of salted cod-fish fritters, was derived from the 18th century British navy sailing ships. If an officer wanted something to be done in a hurry the order was "stamp and go".

Ingredients

450g/1 lb. saltfish
1/2 teaspoon chopped scotch bonnet pepper, cored and deseeded
1/2 teaspoon chopped thyme leaves
2 spring onions, chopped
120g/4 oz/1 cup plain flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
Vegetable oil, for deep frying

Method

Soak the saltfish for several hours, then rinse and drain well. Place the fish in a pan of cold water and simmer for 15-20 minutes, then drain and remove all the skin and bones.

Place the fish, spring onions, pepper and thyme in food processor or blender, and puree.

Add the flour, baking powder and enough water to make a thin batter.

Heat the oil in a deep fryer and drop the mixture into it, one tablespoon at a time. When the fritters are golden brown, remove and drain on kitchen paper.

Source: *The Festive Food of Jamaica*
Tessa Haywood (1996)

HISTORICAL FIRSTS

First Public Event at the National Stadium

The celebration of Jamaica becoming an independent nation on August 6, 1962, was the first public event staged at the National Stadium. It was a grand occasion for thousands of Jamaicans who gathered at the new stadium on the evening of August 5, 1962, to see the lowering of the "Union Jack", the flag of Great Britain, and the raising of the flag of Jamaica for the first time.

The National Anthem was also sung for the first time at this event.

Prime Minister

Sir William Alexander Bustamante was elected the first Prime Minister of Jamaica after the island became independent in 1962. "Busta", as he was affec-

tionately called, was born in Blenheim, Hanover, on February 24, 1884. Sir Alexander is one of the country's seven National Heroes.

Jamaican Governor-General

In 1962, Her Majesty the Queen appointed the country's first Jamaican born Governor-General, Sir Clifford Campbell. He succeeded Sir Kenneth Blackburne, who served as Governor-General for a few months in 1962.

Free Village

Sligoville in St. Catherine, was the first free village established in Jamaica. Ex-slaves lived there as free people after Emancipation in 1838. The village was named after the Marquis of Sligo, then Governor of Jamaica.

The Jamaica News is published by the Jamaica Information Service
58a Half Way Tree Road, Kingston 10
Tel: (876) 926 3590-8; website: www.jis.gov.jm

Emancipation and Independence Messages

From the Governor-General of Jamaica

His Excellency, the Most Hon. Sir Howard Cooke, ON, GCMG, GCVO, CD

EMANCIPATION MESSAGE

Our forefathers who fought for the abolition of slavery could not look ahead and see this day when, as an Independent nation, we would commemorate the day of our deliverance from the mental, physical and social shackles of slavery. Indeed, many died without bearing the word 'freedom' from the lips of the people.

Today we reflect on our emancipation as a date to be remembered and cherished. I invite all Jamaicans to use the occasion to give thanks to God, who knows the limitations of His people, and never gives us more that we can bear, and in the fullness of time, brought our redemption to pass.

As we reflect on this achievement, let us remember that the great God is still with us. He has blessed us with great leaders and teachers. He has scattered His creative genius in our people across the nation. In the midst of drought we are still producing. We have caught the attention of the world in our various endeavours such as sports, the arts, music, literature, scientific discoveries and technological skills. It is true that we have experienced the ravages of many disasters; but our resilience has enabled us to survive admirably. We have built a country that is worth fighting to preserve, and I invite all Jamaicans to join me in this effort.

We must preserve our integrity because this will influence the way we live. We must preserve our care for each other. We must preserve our heritage and culture; it is the embodiment of who we are. We must preserve our environment; it is the legacy for our children. We must preserve our peace, so that men, and women, and children can enjoy the freedom to live without fear; and enjoy the freedom to dream dreams and have them come to pass.

We must never doubt that we are a great people building a great nation. Our National Heroes believed this; let us continue to prove them right. It is my prayer that this recognition of Emancipation Day will inspire us to defend our freedoms.

INDEPENDENCE MESSAGE

In every successful business there comes a time when the organization must do some stocktaking. In Jamaica, we have a tendency to focus on our failures and downplay our achievements; but let us, as we celebrate our 38th anniversary of Independence, use the occasion to do some stocktaking. It is time for us to look at our successes as well as our failures, note our resources, and take charge of our future.

We are living in an age of rapid changes, and the social environment that ushered in our Independence was radically different from the Jamaica of today. We must face this reality as we take charge of our future, both collectively as a nation and individually as a people.

The desire to be independent arises from the passion to rule ourselves and be sovereign. I have no doubt that we can be our own masters, and indeed, we should be our own decision makers.

Jamaica has demonstrated to the world that we are a nation of achievers. Our accomplishments in various fields of endeavour are clear indications of our talents and abilities as a people. We have commanded the respect of both developed and developing countries.

In world forums our ideas and presentations have always been well received. We have exhibited a remarkable resilience to bounce back from adversity, and we have shown from our achievements in education, science, technology, agriculture, sports, the arts and social development in particular, that our fight for Independence was justified.

I am proud of our country, yet saddened that the many good things that are taking place are known by only a few. This we must change. We are an extraordinary people and our greatness will come to light and benefit all of us when we learn to glorify our achievements.

Allow me to suggest three areas for consideration that can influence both our development as a nation, and our peace and prosperity. Simply put, these are our understanding and use of science and technology, our attitudes and values, and our love of country.

The computer has revolutionized the world, affecting every area of life. We

cannot ignore this. To be truly independent today we must be technologically minded. In this regard, I must commend the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Technology for the great work they are doing to prepare our country for the twenty-first century. The infrastructure is therefore in place for us to move forward.

However, there can be no development without the support of the people. When we got our Independence in 1962 there was a great urge to establish a nation whose values and attitudes embraced a respect for humanity. Caring and sharing were important aspects of life.

In our values, we were seeking honesty, discipline and hard work, with courtesy, respect for authority, godliness and decency leading the way in our social interactions. This was the foundation on which our nation was built. We cannot now vary from a path that was dear to us. We must return to respect for life and property, to love and affection for one another, to peace and progress.

I am happy to observe the ascendancy in the Volunteer Movement. I congratulate the leaders for this new dimension of purpose and help, exhibited in the national interest.

Finally, I must talk about love of country and ask us all to question how deep is our love. If Jamaica is our beloved island home we will work diligently and creatively at whatever is our task. If Jamaica is our beloved island home we will seek peace and harmony wherever we work and live. If Jamaica is our beloved island home we pray for her leaders that they may govern in partnership with God's divine plan for our growth and prosperity.

I am convinced that this must be the approach if we are to successfully take charge of our future, and I call on all Jamaicans to renew their commitment to our country.

I wish you all a very happy Independence Day.



At the start of the year 2000, Prime Minister of Jamaica the Rt. Hon. P. J. Patterson, stated that "whatever the problems, it is critical to the future of our nation that we realise the potential for a higher level of growth. In the coming period, the prospects for growth are positive for both short and medium-term perspectives."

"However, achieving growth will require that we avoid the significant downward risks. These risks include a deepening of the debt problems, a sharp exchange rate of depreciation, fall out of export prices and markets, and social upheavals

"At the same time, the ongoing process to ensure better tax administration must be pursued; and a tight reign maintained on expenditure so that fiscal targets are met

"Over the medium to long term, sustainable growth will require significant investment in new capacity and technologies. There will be a need for sizeable inflow of external financial resources: equity, loans and divestment to fund such investments"

Highlights

Agriculture

- Jamaica has successfully worked with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to get certification for ackees to be allowed into the United States. This is a market worth US\$13 million
- This access will result in the general modernisation of food industry practices, create 2,500 jobs and facilitate access of other processed foods into American markets

Information Technology

- The development of a comprehensive programme to exploit the opportunities being created by information and communications technologies
- The investment of \$90 million to refurbish the old Goodyear factory in St. Thomas as an Information Telecommunication export service centre that will provide some 1,400 jobs
- The completion of the Portmore

- Informatics Park, now under construction, which will employ some 500 young people by the end of this year
- The Post mand Telecommunications system is being commercialised

Training and Production

- HEART is undertaking a manpower pool for employment in Information Technology, music, sports, tourism, craft and other labour intensive, demand-driven enterprises
- It will establish and partially fund advance and fast track programmes in the Information Technology sector, similar to the Caribbean Institute of Technology

Tourism

- The aim is to increase occupancy for the existing rooms, and this will require a concentrated marketing programme, involving the Jamaica Tourist Board and existing tourism interests
- The recent approval of a package of incentives for small hotels and tourist attractions
- The 430-room Ritz Carlton Rosehall will open its doors this summer, as will FDR cabins in Trelawny. Together they are expected to offer direct employment to some 700 persons

Bauxite/Alumina

- The sector registered the fourth successive year of record output in 1999, while achieving significant reductions in its costs. This has laid the foundation for major expansion by all three alumina operations, which will come to the stage of final decision-making this year
- During 2000, Alpart will begin the initial phase of its expansion programme with an investment of US\$10 million. It will finalise the other phases of the programme to expand the plant by 500,000 tonnes of alumina at a cost of over \$200 million when its engineering study is completed in March

Housing

- Large housing project to come on stream this year are the 1,560 houses in Longville - Phase 2 in Clarendon; 1,250 houses in Green Pond - Phases 1 & 2 in St. James; 536 houses in Christian Gardens in St. Catherine
- Some 432 acres of land have been identified on eight estates to be developed for workers in the sugar industry
- The Government and Food for the Poor will be providing 2000 housing solutions

INDEPENDENCE REFLECTIONS

He also pointed to the great economic opportunities, which were opened up for Jamaica, as trade with foreign countries became the order of the day.

Mr Earle, however, expressed sadness at the present level of crime and indiscipline in the society. He said that before Independence, people showed more love and respect for each other.

"People had more manners and respect for each other and children were more disciplined," Mr Earle said. He also lamented the present attitude of young people towards work, stressing that there is "too much laziness and wasting of time by the young and strong of the society".

"This country must again begin to produce so that we can become economically strong, and the youth must work in partnership with leaders to move the country forward," he stressed.

Mr Earle called on the church to lead in the drive to bring back discipline and respect for time, especially among the young, as this was key to get the country moving.

He stressed that respect for work should be encouraged among all persons of working age, including those in penal institutions.

Mr Earle has challenged all Jamaicans to show greater respect for Independence and to continue playing their part in strengthening the economic possibilities of the country.

Emancipation Message

From the Prime Minister of Jamaica, the Rt. Hon. P. J. Patterson, Q.C., M.P.

I greet you on this Emancipation Day 2000 - the fourth year of commemoration since its return to our annual calendar of national observances.

Once again, as we celebrate the first of August, it is time to reflect on the national importance of a moment, which set in motion the most significant and far-reaching social and economic transforming in the history of Jamaica.

Every people and nation make a point of commemorating the defining periods of their history, growth and development. August first, 1838, the year of "full free", as our African forebears referred to it, is one such defining moment.

It continues to be of major significance for us as a people. It was that event which brought unequivocally, to the centre of our lives, the value of freedom for which our forefathers struggled so valiantly. For over two centuries, they fought relentlessly against chattel slavery.

They stubbornly resisted the resulting depersonalisation of millions of human beings, throughout the Caribbean and the rest of the Americas.

This dehumanisation followed what was a most blatant "crime against humanity".

And so Emancipation is a watershed period in our history, which highlights the indomitable spirit of our people to overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles and to release an entire society from the debilitating transgressions of slavery.

From those early times, Jamaica's efforts to bring dignity and rights to

the majority of its people set the stage for our continuing commitment to equality and social justice worldwide, as was evident in our long and active support for the anti-apartheid movement on behalf of the oppressed in South Africa.

Here in Jamaica, the realisation of the Emancipation event, made it possible for thousands of persons from India, China and Lebanon to enter a free society, inhabited by free human beings, with unquestionable rights in law.

But Emancipation also gave to Jamaica a platform from which the future society could journey towards Independence with the further challenge to sustain a country that is politically self-governing, economically self-reliant, socially and culturally focused.

It continues to challenge us all to fulfil the promise which summons us to foster, promote and sustain civil society based on mutual respect, mutual caring and mutual trust as well as on a life of purpose, a deep and positive sense of self. It should help us to give the lie to what is so often heard, "that everybody believes Jamaicans are a great people except Jamaicans themselves."

Indeed, we are wise enough to know that Emancipation signified more than the abolition of slavery and the freeing up of the slave. It also signified the liberation of the master whose life of fear, distrust and pre-emptive cruelty, could be transformed into a life negotiated and fulfilled on the basis of genuine respect of those who laboured, whether as recently freed labourers

or indentured servants — in short, on the basis of true mutual respect, mutual trust and even mutual caring.

Such recognition for the innate personhood of every Jamaican, of whatever race, class, creed or political persuasion is itself the occasion and true meaning of freedom; the legacy of Emancipation and a primary value that should inform our attitudes to self, society and to each other.

As we celebrate and reminisce on the tireless efforts of our forefathers to remove the shackles of slavery, let us never forget the role played by the church at the time, and subsequently, by our schools.

Both the church and our schools must continue to be a guiding light to the people of this country at both the national and community levels.

By their work, they have been able to remind us that the emancipation of our people provided the impetus to develop the habits of self-help, the community and the nation, of charity towards each other. We must as a society insist that, Emancipation, a remarkable triumph of the human spirit, constitutes a lasting foundation on which to build an edifice of care and respect for each other

The battle to achieve economic prosperity and growth cannot be won if the legacy of compassion, love and respect bestowed upon us by the pioneers of Emancipation, are being constantly undermined and eroded.

Let us seek to recapture the human dignity and kindness of human spirit, which influenced the work of our forefathers in their fight for "full-free" on August 1, 1838.

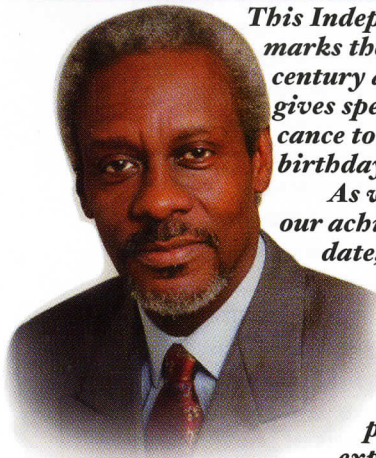
Let us all therefore unite to make this a joyous, reflective and meaningful Emancipation Day as we enter this new millennium.



Prime Minister P.J. Patterson

Independence Message

From Prime Minister of Jamaica the RT. HON. P. J. PATTERSON, G.C.M.P.



This Independence marks the last for this century and thereby gives special significance to our 38th birthday as a nation. As we reflect on our achievements to date, in the various fields of endeavour, we can take satisfaction in our progress on: the expansion of educational activities. The

enhancement of our country's health system; The increases in the provision of shelter and greater access to water, public transportation and the means of communication.

These signposts of advancement should not be the cause for complacency, but must spur us to even higher levels of performance, and be timely reminders of how much more still remains to be done.

It is to be readily admitted that our life as an independent nation has not been without its ups and downs. But despite the obstacles and impediments, we have maintained the determination to shape our own society ourselves; to nurture our democratic process and to sustain our capacity to build on our own unique strengths.

The act of Independence reminds us that our people have always been able to define their mission at critical junctures of the country's development.

As we enter the new millennium, we need to use the experiences of the past 38 years to bolster our sovereignty, to strengthen our resolve to manage our human and natural resources as instruments which ensure a better quality of life for all our people.

This has to be done within the context of the rapid changes that continue to unfold in the world around us.

The rapid changes brought on by

globalization have unleashed tremendous expansion in the productive capacity of people worldwide. It exposes a country, such as Jamaica, to an increasingly competitive environment. We are being called upon to respond with innovation, energy, resilience and greater productivity.

One of our primary missions, as we complete the crossing into another millennium, is to respond to the new economic environment created by globalization and the vast technological changes, which are occurring with bewildering speed.

Let us resolve to use all our creativity, intellectual acumen, energy and collective wisdom, irrespective of colour, class or creed, to make the necessary adjustments, which the global marketplace demands.

We note with particular satisfaction:

- Our remarkable prowess in the arena of sports and culture — without precedent or parallel for a country of our size
- The emergence of a new entrepreneurial class, young and confident, who are facing the chal-

The rapid changes brought on by globalization have unleashed tremendous expansion in the productive capacity of people worldwide. It exposes a country, such as Jamaica, to an increasingly competitive environment. We are being called upon to respond with innovation, energy, resilience and greater productivity

lenges of globalization and achieving the efficiencies to compete successfully in the international markets

- The coming together of young Jamaican professionals in North America and England with those who share a common determination to influence the pace and pattern of development in the land of their birth
- For the first time in three decades, Jamaica stands poised to add a new sector to the

national economy — Information Technology. We are establishing the framework of a knowledge-based society which can stimulate job creation and fuel substantial and sustainable economic development. As we transit this millennium bridge, we can point with pride to our achievements in the fields of scholarship, scientific research, culture, governance, community development and sports. We can recall:

- the prophetic foresight of Marcus Mosiah Garvey
- the cricketing brilliance of George Headley; the genius of a T. P. Lecky
- the skill and courage of Mary Seacole
- the musical creativity of Bob Marley and so many more

As we celebrate the passage of our history as an independent nation, we must remember and honour those who gave us inspiration and motivation to strive for better.

But there will always be some who have no memorial. And they too are deserving of our respect.

This year, the Millennium Committee has joined with the Council for Senior Citizens to honour scores of Jamaicans who have reached the age of 100 years. We thank them for the many lives that they have touched. As persons who were actually born in that century when slavery still existed in Jamaica, they represent, in some way, the transition to freedom in its fullest form.

This September, the Millennium Scholarships for post-graduate studies will be awarded to twelve of our most talented and deserving sons and daughters. The scholarships will, by virtue of their names, recall the contribution to national life of our seven National Heroes, and five Prime Ministers. But they will also represent our forward look as the chosen fields of study are highly relevant to our future in the global environment.

Education remains a critical area of development as we face the future. By the end of this year, Millennium Schools of Excellence will be identified to serve as models for the broader system.

Already, individual schools at all

continued on page 7

continued from page 6
Prime Minister's Independence Message

levels are identifying their particular centres of excellence to play their part in the national drive for an improved quality of life for our people.

The Museum of Jamaican Music has already been launched, and will grow. It is a symbol of the evolution of one of our richest forms of cultural expression. It also symbolizes the importance of treasuring what we have as a means of inspiration in the face of future challenges.

We are also using these millennium years to break new ground in establishing visual symbols of our cultural heritage and our cultural links. Communities are already creating their own monuments and developing local heritage sites.

And in the Capital City, we will be establishing a mini park to house busts of world heroes who have made a direct impact on our life in Jamaica. Additionally, we will establish an Avenue of the Americas where figures representing our Caribbean, Latin American and Hemispheric neighbours will be displayed.

But the best legacy which we can take into the new millennium is the legacy of the utmost respect for human life, which was a value especially cherished by our forefathers in the aftermath of Emancipation.

That indomitable spirit which resisted the worst forms of cruelty, which conquered evil, greed and depravity must continue to inspire our hope and vision.

Brothers and Sisters,

Let us keep our hopes alive by redoubling our efforts in nation building.

Let us resolve together to:

- Build a self-sustaining economy, which provides the basis for the enhancement of personal and national goals.
- Maintain our commitment to addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our society.
- Intensify our efforts to reduce the levels of violence and foster peace, harmony, good-will and cooperative behaviour patterns throughout the society.
- Develop and provide new levels of love and devotion to our country and more respect

continued on page 11

"Education, the Greatest Multiplier..."

Bert Mitchell, Founder/CEO Mitchell & Titus, LLP

Bert Mitchell has come a long way from the dirt road he used to trod in Ramble, Manchester, to attend Porus Primary School in the land of his birth, to live and work in the sophisticated, corporate business and social environment of New York, USA.

"The school was three miles from my home, and I walked barefooted to that institution until I was 13 years old," he recalled. "From where I lived, Porus was like a big city. Ramble was a little village without running water or electricity."

That humble beginning, is in stark contrast to Mr. Mitchell's sprawling corporate office, located in New York's prime business district, on Wall Street. However, Mr. Mitchell is not preoccupied with his surroundings. This in midtown suave, down to earth Jamaican is shrewd yet softhearted, and is well-known for his understated elegance. He is modest in his approach to all things, corporate and social.

"My personal philosophy is that education is the greatest multiplier in life, because with an education comes the appreciation for ownership," he said.

He is the founder and CEO for Mitchell & Titus, LLP, the largest minority-owned Certified Public Accountant (CPA) firm in the United States. Mitchell & Titus is listed among the 40 largest CPA firms in the US. The company has 18 partners, employs more than 180 workers and has offices in Philadelphia, Washington, DC and Baltimore.

Mitchell & Titus' client list includes many Fortune 500 firms; government agencies, such as New York City Board of Education and New Orleans International Airport, and provides service to famous clients, such as attor-

ney, Johnnie Cochran and NBA star, Rasheed Wallace.

For Mitchell, the road to the top was not an easy one. He migrated to the United States of America in 1958 with his family and entered college that year, working during the day and attending classes at Baruch College of the City University of New York, at night.

"When I graduated from Baruch, I was one of eight blacks in the graduating class," he noted. Yet, after joining the elite four percent of accountants by passing his CPA exam at the first try, Mitchell was denied a place by the top eight accounting firms.

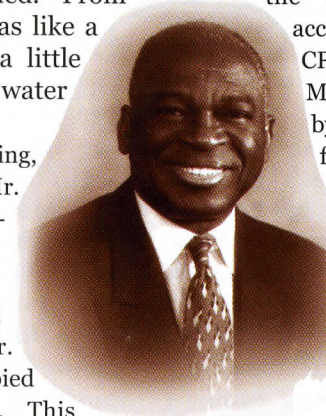
"I sent out resumes and was invited for interviews, but once they saw me, the jobs disappeared." Mitchell refused to give up, and a firm in Manhattan eventually employed him in 1969. In 1972, Mitchell secured a loan from a non-profit organization to start his firm.

Although he first toyed with the idea of becoming an engineer, he has no regrets that he entered another field. "I've done well," he said and, "I have accomplished all the goals I set for myself."

Mitchell is the recipient of numerous awards and honorary doctorates.

He has served as a member of the accounting faculty of Baruch College, where he earned both his BBA and MBA degrees. He is a graduate of the Owner-President Management Program of Harvard Business School. He served as President of the New York State Society of CPAs, a 30,000-member organization, between 1987 and 1988, and, he was the first African-American to head a state society of CPAs in the United States.

Through it all, Mitchell, a proud Jamaican, has demonstrated his per-



continued on page 11

FASTER ESTATE SETTLEMENT

At Administrator General's Department

The office of the Administrator General was established by law in 1873 with a mandate to administer the estates of deceased persons. It has the responsibility to investigate beneficiaries and assets of estates.

Jamaicans, particularly those residing abroad, will be encouraged to learn that, under Government's Public Sector Modernization Programme, the AGD has been upgraded and reorganized to respond more effectively to the needs of the citizens.

The Administrator-General's Department (AGD), which became an Executive Agency on April 1, 1999, earned \$18 million during the past year, compared with the \$5 million of the year before. The Department has been modernized, is more focussed, and aims to increase efficiency and productivity, while generating a strong customer friendly environment.

Reduction in processing time

The turnaround times for investigating and closing estates has improved considerably. Last year the Department closed approximately 300 files, compared to 26 in 1996.

To administer estates, the Department establishes the total assets left by the deceased, identifies the true beneficiaries and determines any obligations payable by the estate to creditors.

When can the Department Act?

Before the Department can act, the following circumstances must exist:

- The Administrator-General was appointed executor of the Will
- A Will was made, but no executor was named, or the named executor has died or refused to act
- A person dies and leaves no Will (i.e. intestate)

- A minor is entitled to a share of the estate of the deceased who has died intestate
- The residuary estate of the deceased intestate, does not exceed one thousand dollars (\$1,000)

Investigating the Estate

The Department then makes investigations regarding the beneficiaries, the assets of estates, and letters sent to financial institutions or other organizations relating to any money held by them for the estate of the deceased.

This investigation depends on the co-operation of beneficiaries. On completion, documents are prepared and filed in court, grounding an application for a Probate, (where the Administrator-General has been appointed Executor), Grant Letters of Administration or Letter of Administration with the Will annexed.

The Administrator-General then proceeds to collect personal assets and take formal possession of real properties in the estate, with a view to managing them until they are transferred to the beneficiaries, or sold.

When can beneficiaries collect?

In addition to paying funeral and administration expenses and settling any other claims against the estate. The Administrator-General is also responsible for investing moneys held for beneficiaries, and managing the properties of which formal possession has been taken until they are transferred to the beneficiaries or sold. The AGD will then make periodic payments for maintenance, upon request, to the parent or guardian of the minor, from the income derived from investments in the estate, and will transfer real properties to adult beneficiaries where appropriate.

The AGD will also prepare final accounts when all beneficiaries and assets have been determined, and distribute the assets to the beneficiaries according to the Will of the deceased or the Court Order, or under the Intestate's Estates and Property Charges Act.

When all of this is achieved the estate is then closed

Why make a Will?

The Administrator-General's Department encourages all persons who own assets to make a Will.

The AGD Advises

- Your property will be divided among your loved ones according to your wishes
- There will be certainty as to the distribution of property to the last item
- Distribution of some of your property, e.g. jewelry, can begin immediately upon your death, hence the likelihood of damage to, or theft of, estate property is reduced
- The welfare of your dependents will be guaranteed as provisions for schooling, medical expenses and day to day expenses, can be administered through a trust fund set up by the Will
- Children under eighteen (18) years (minors) can be provided for, and suffering and delay are greatly reduced
- You may express your affection towards someone, or appreciation for a friend who has helped you during your life
- You can express your wishes about your funeral, burial, cremation, etc.

Administrator-General's Department
12 Ocean Blvd.
P.O. Box 458, Jamaica
Tel. No. (876) 922-1830-3
(876) 922-0700-5
Fax No: (876) 922-4201
E-mail: admngen@cwjamaica.com

Proud to Be Jamaican

August 6, 1992, is a significant day in the life of the Jamaican people. It was the day the country became an independent nation, assuming full control of its affairs and the welfare of its people.

This year, Jamaica celebrates its 38th anniversary of Independence. Recently, the Jamaica Information Service (JIS) went on the streets of Kingston to ask Jamaicans: "What does Independence mean to you and what do you think is the most significant achievement of the country since it became independent?" Here are excerpts of what the public had to say:



Thomas Mulgrave

Thomas Mulgrave, a 67 year-old retired police officer, says: "Independence is for our own improvement. It's coming out of a colonial system and going on our own as an independent nation, administering our

own affairs... I think since then we have established some good institutions... (and) no longer look to the British system to guide and direct us."



Lilieth Davidson

Lilieth Davidson, 35 year-old hair-dresser comments: "We have achieved a great deal in terms of people being less illiterate than before

Independence... I think we have reached a far way. I am happy about it because my country has done a lot more for me. I am proud of my country."

Lucy Whyte, "an old enough" Operations Manager, believes that Independence means the empowerment of people. "We have come into our own as individual, more entrepreneurship against one thinking that you



Lucy Whyte

can only earn a living by being an employee... believing in ourselves that much more as against relying on outsiders... we think for ourselves... we have made gains in various sectors... the

small business sector has made in-roads, there have been significant increases in non-traditional exports, had it not been for Independence we may not have gone there, we may have still been relying on Great Britain."



Lee Issa

Lee Issa, a 58 year-old businessman, thinks that Independence means sovereignty and that we are masters of our own destiny. "In terms of our achievements since independence I believe it has been a learning curve. I think we have learnt from mistakes of the past and I think the Government has learned how to do things the efficient and effective way, so that Jamaica is poised to grow economically, and I am very optimistic that through this learning curve, which has taken us 30-odd years, that we are now ready to move forward into the 21st Century."

Diplomatic WHIRL



Jamaica's Information Minister, Sen. the Hon. Maxine Henry Wilson, (centre) held bilateral talks with several government ministries while on a recent visit to Canada. Here she is shown with, from left, Jamaica's Honorary Consul in Vancouver, Dr Ashley Smith; Mr. Wayne Carter, Director of Heritage Branch in the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture; Mr David Richardson, Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Small Business, Tourism and Culture, and Jamaica's High Commissioner to Canada, His Excellency Raymond Wolfe.



Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Dr Richard Bernal, exchanges pleasantries with Mrs. Shirley Fletcher at the thanksgiving service for the life of the late Hon. Douglas Fletcher O.J., C.B.E. Others in the photo are (l-r) former US Charge D'Affairs to Jamaica, Mr Lacy Wright, Mr Richard Flethcer, Mrs Bernal and Dr Basil Buchanan.



Jamaica's High Commissioner to Canada, His Excellency Raymond Wolfe (right) and Mrs. Wolfe (2nd right) greet some of the specially invited guests to the opening night of Jamaica Heatwave, the Canadian Tulip Festival, where Fab 5 performed.



Mrs. Daphne Muirhead signs the visitors' register at Nottingham Council House during the civic reception held to welcome High Commissioner Muirhead and party to Nottingham, for his community visit in April. High Commissioner Muirhead admires the certificate being presented by the Lord Mayor of Nottingham.

JA RUNNINGS

TRELAWNY PRIDE FESTIVAL & HOMECOMING

July 28 – August 6
Trelawny (throughout the Parish)
Contact: Keith Russell/Larry Chang
Tel: (876) 610 5573/610 5649

This event will include a number of sporting activities such as football, netball, push cart darby, cross-the-harbour race and a fisherman's regatta.

BACK A YARD

July 29 – August 5
St Ann
Contact: St Ann Chamber of Commerce
Tel: (876) 974 2629/9289
Website: stanncham@cwjamaica.com

This festival will showcase great sons and daughters of St Ann. Events will include a jubilee festival, church services, a photo exhibition, investment seminar, a parish tour, an awards banquet and more.

THE DENBIGH AGRICULTURAL SHOW

July 30 - August 1
Denbigh Show Ground, May Pen
Contact: Jamaica Agricultural Society
Tel: (876) 922 0610; 967 4094

Annual exhibition of farm produce from farmers across Jamaica. Unusual layout and display of products also animals on show.

REGGAE SUMFEST

July 30 – August 5
Catherine Hall, Montego Bay
Contact: Summerfest Office
Tel: (876) 940 5446, 952 0850
Fax: (876) 952 3715
E-mail: info@reggaesumfest.com

An annual music festival held in Montego Bay for the sixth consecutive year. This five day event features top local and international reggae artistes.

MELLO GO ROUN'

August 1 - Montego Bay
August 3 - National Arena, Kingston
CONTACT: Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC)
Tel: (876) 926 5726 - 9
e-mail: jcdc@cwjamaica.com

A cultural extravaganza featuring the national prize winners in the Independence festival events.

JAMAICA INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

August 6
Kings House
Contact: Jamaica Cultural Development Commission (JCDC)
Tel: (876) 926 5726 - 7
e-mail: jcdc@cwjamaica.com

Gala parade of costumed and uniformed groups. Traditional Jonkanoo dancers as well as modern dancers showcasing a cross section of Jamaican culture.

continued from page 7

"Education, the Greatest Multiplier..."

Bert Mitchell, Founder/CEO Mitchell & Titus, LLP

sonal belief in the value of education by supporting several educational institutions in his homeland, and inspiring young Jamaicans to grasp those basic essentials.

In addition to his donations to Kingston Technical High School, Mitchell provides an endowment fund to the Porus Comprehensive High School, named for his teacher Ivy Seivwright. The fund pays out over US\$120,000 per year divided between the elementary and high schools. One third of the fund goes to high achieving students, and two-thirds, to needy students.

For Mitchell, the reason is simple. "Through education, we can build a strong nation."

continued from page 7

Independence 2000 Message from the Rt. Hon. P.J. Patterson

between our fellowmen.

Let us challenge ourselves to strive towards new heights of discipline, tolerance and performance, as we observe this Independence Day.

Let us also pledge that we will place the national interest always above consideration of self, partisan interests or sectoral concerns.

Let us join hands and hearts in prayer on behalf of Jamaica, land we love.

I wish for all Jamaica, a happy, reflective and memorable Independence.

Washington Celebrates the Life of the Hon. Douglas Fletcher, O.J., C.B.E.

The Embassy of Jamaica, along with the Jamaican Community in Washington, recently celebrated the life and work of former Jamaican Ambassador to the United States, the late Hon. Douglas Fletcher, at a Service of Thanksgiving at the Andrew Rankin Memorial Chapel, Howard University.

The special Commemorative Service which was officiated by the Reverend Dr Bertram Melbourne, with musical selections by the Howard University Choir. Those in attendance included representatives of the national and regional broadcast media, the Washington Diplomatic Corps, United States Government officials, and representatives from the District of Columbia Government.

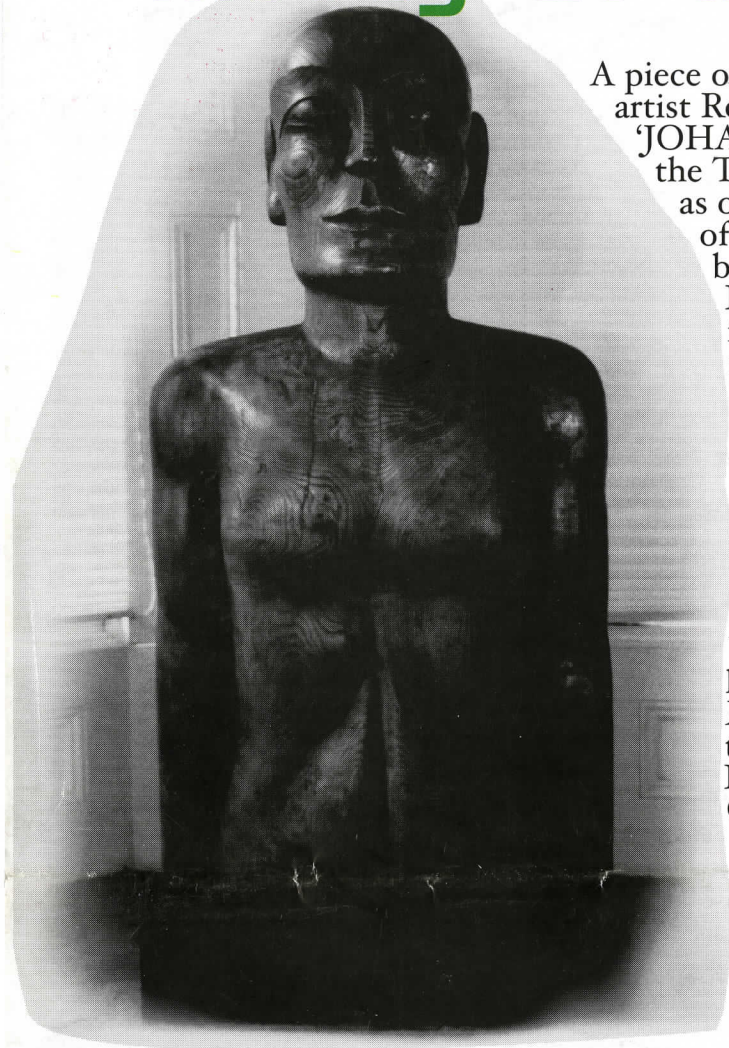
In his tribute to the Honourable Douglas Fletcher, Jamaica's Ambassador to the United States, Dr Richard Bernal remembered him as a patriot, advocate and statesman who had given unfailing service to his country, and whose work and conduct were a lasting legacy of excellence.

He also referred to him as his mentor and friend, and commented that Douglas Fletcher's stewardship, acumen and wisdom, had been a constant source of inspiration.

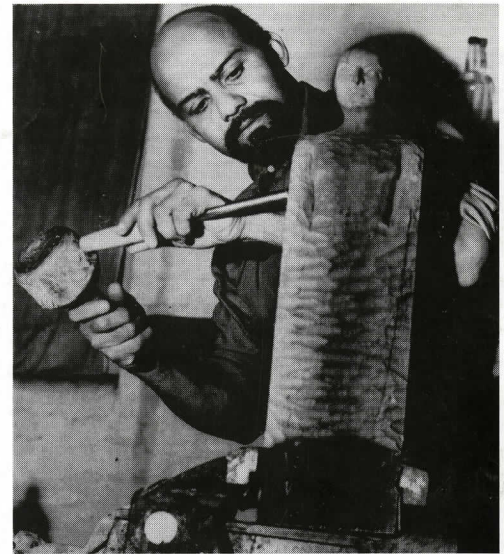
Former United States Charge D'Affairs to Jamaica, Lacy Wright, remembered the late Ambassador as a diplomat extraordinaire, whose masterful art of diplomacy, had contributed to sustaining a strong and lasting relationship between Jamaica and the United States, during his tenure in the 1970s and beyond.

Richard Fletcher, son of the late Hon. Douglas Fletcher, who spoke on behalf of the family, thanked the community for their support and prayers and reiterated his father's strong commitment to Jamaica and his dedication to serving its people. Following the service a reception was held at the Gallery Lounge, Howard University.

Moody at the Tate Gallery



A piece of sculpture by Jamaican artist Ronald Moody entitled 'JOHANAAN' was chosen by the Tate Gallery in London as one of a hundred pieces of work that typify the best of their collection. Ronald Moody had his first exhibition in Paris in 1937. Now deceased, he also produced work that is included in the collections of the National Portrait Gallery, the Leicester Museum and Art Gallery, and the Hayward Gallery in the UK. His portrait head of his brother Dr. Harold Moody, the founder of the League of Coloured People in 1930, is part of the National Portrait Gallery collection.

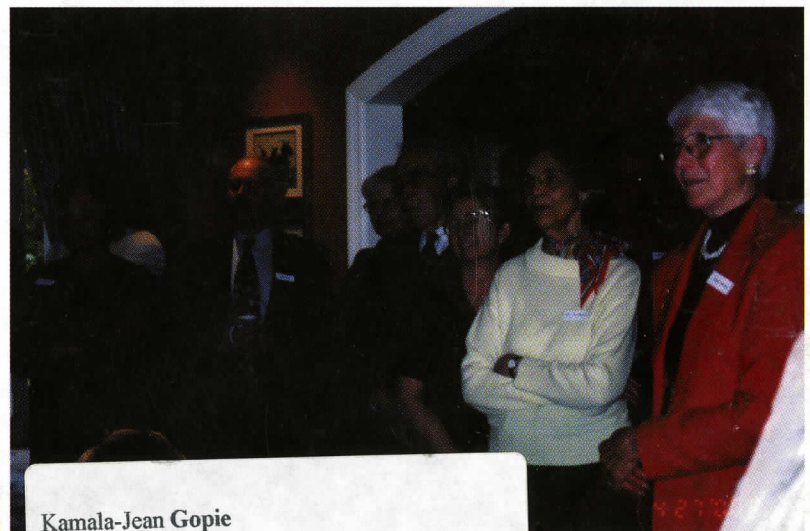


RONALD MOODY carving 'Standing Male Figure' (1951 - mahogany) Col: Wallace Campbell, Jamaica Photo: Sport & General Agency 1951.

JOHANAAN (1936 - ELM) Col: Tate Britain, London, Photo: Cynthia Moody



Minister of Information, Sen. the Hon. Maxine Henry Wilson, addressing a group of Jamaicans at the home of Michael and Beverley Marley in Victoria, British Columbia, during a recent visit to Canada.



Kamala-Jean Gopie
#2201-260 Queens Quay West
Toronto, Ontario
M5J 2N3